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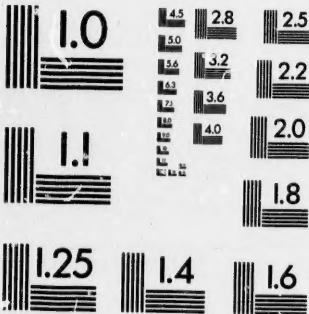
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BY
REV. W. F. CLARKE.

No. 1.

THE
NOBILITY OF AGRICULTURE:

*Delivered at the Ontario School of Agriculture,
Guelph, Monday, 14th October, 1878.*

MONTREAL:
JOHN DOUGALL & SON.
1878.

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PXX

Prospectus for the "Witness" Publications

FOR 1879.

We have to note little progress during the past year, as will appear from the following figures:—

	Sept., 1878.	Sept., 1877.
DAILY WITNESS.....	14,580	15,000
WEEKLY WITNESS....	24,300	23,500
NORTHERN MESSENGER.....	800	47,500
L'AUREOLE.....	850	800
	30,130	86,800

Better times are, however, dawning for the country, and we look for growth in proportion. We ask for the help of all lovers of wholesome literature in bringing about such growth. The WEEKLY WITNESS has now been at work for thirty-two years, through good report and through evil report. The DAILY WITNESS has been in operation eighteen years; and the NORTHERN MESSENGER thirteen years; the AUREOLE thirteen years, although only one under the present publishers. The NEW DOMINION MONTHLY twelve years. The advertising business has not grown with rapid strides as in former years, and the year has been one of necessary economy and quiet. The year has been uneventful. The principal matter of note in connection with the history of our publications has been the receipt from the Committee of the WITNESS TESTIMONIAL FUND of a considerable sum of money towards the purchase of our great eight-cylinder press, which is being duly inscribed in memory of so important and interesting an event. The most important announcement we have to make for the coming season is to be found below.

WITNESS LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE.

The publishers of the WITNESS have of late been strongly impressed with the idea that Canada has reached that stage in her agricultural development when the country is ripe for very considerable improvements in her farming customs. Our best farmers have come to realize that the culture which has served in the past will not serve in the future. Agricultural science—the application of mind to matter—is what is needed. Agricultural colleges are abundant in many parts of Europe, and in countries of which we know almost nothing a large proportion of the farmers have had thorough scientific training, and expensive works and journals are found in nearly every farm-house. The next generation of Canadian farmers must be of this class.

Those who cannot attain to education will fall behind in the race. The great majority may easily be educated farmers if they choose. There is already one agricultural college in each province. If they were properly appreciated there would be one in each county.

The publishers of the WITNESS have during the past few weeks been made the recipients of a munificent donation from the people of Canada, and have conceived the plan of making some return to the country by the establishment of a winter course of

"WITNESS" FREE LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE, with the object of enlisting the zeal of intelligent farmers in the diffusion of agricultural knowledge among their fellow-agriculturists. To that end they are fortunate in having secured the services of the most popular and best known agricultural writer and speaker in Canada,

MR. W. F. CLARKE, OF LINDENBANK, GUELPH, formerly editor of the *Canada Farmer* and of the *Ontario Farmer*, who will lecture beginning about October first, in such parts of the country as may offer him the best openings. We should be glad if it were possible to cover the whole country with such a course, but as concentration is necessary to efficiency, he will probably work out from two or three centres in Quebec and Ontario, trying to leave behind him wherever he goes some permanent result in the shape of organization for mutual improvement among the farmers in the various localities he may visit. All who would like to have such lectures delivered in their neighborhoods are requested to write at once to the undersigned, when the possibility of fulfilling the request will be immediately considered.

We would not have it thought that this plan is intended to be a diversion of the generous gift of the subscribers to the Testimonial Fund from its original intent of establishing the WITNESS enterprise, as we are in the hope that Mr. Clarke's tour will not in the long run prove a loss to the WITNESS, but that on the contrary it will do much to establish the paper as the farmer's paper throughout the Dominion.

We shall expect our friends who invite the visit of the WITNESS lecturer to make the necessary local arrangements, the way of hall or other public building, fire and lights, which we are quite sure they will do very cheerfully.

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THE NOBILITY OF AGRICULTURE.

INAUGURAL WITNESS LECTURE BY REV. W. F. CLARKE, BEFORE THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, GUELPH.

On Monday evening, October 14th, the first of the series of lectures on "Agriculture," arranged through the enterprise of the publishers of the *Montreal Witness*, was delivered at the Ontario School of Agriculture, Guelph, by the Rev. W. F. Clarke. Besides the whole of the officers and students of the school, there was a representation of the farmers of the neighborhood. From beginning to end the lecture was listened to with marked interest, and as the speaker made happy hits at intervals he was loudly applauded.

Mr. Wm. Johnston, President, occupied the chair, and in introducing the lecturer, stated that it afforded him a great deal of pleasure in having the inaugural address of the series delivered at the College. His feelings in this respect no doubt were shared by the other officers of the institution. He believed that the enterprise manifested by the publishers of the newspaper, in giving to the farmers of this country a series of free lectures on agriculture, would commend itself to the farming community. There was no person more eminently fitted to undertake the task of a lecturing tour than the Rev. W. F. Clarke, whom he now had pleasure in introducing to the audience.

Mr. Clarke was received with applause. He stated that on his own behalf as well as that of the *Montreal Witness*, whose enterprise originated the series of lectures now to begin, he thanked the President of the Ontario School of Agriculture for the courteous permission to deliver his first lecture in the class-room of the institution. The speaker stated that it would encourage and help him not a little to go forth with the sympathies and benedictions of the officers and students of the School of Agriculture. Their patronage would commend him and his work to the farmers of Canada, and pave the way for an appreciative reception in every neighborhood which he might visit. It was fitting on many accounts that the lectures

should begin here, and more especially because this institution inspired the idea that led to their being undertaken. A communication addressed by the lecturer to the editor of the *Montreal Witness*, which appeared in that journal in July last, contains the germ of the enterprise. The lecturer then read that portion of the communication which referred particularly to the subject under consideration. It first pointed out the necessity of bringing science to bear on field work with the view to keeping up the fertility of their lands. That Canada suffers incalculable loss from the ignorance of her farmers as to the properties of the soil they work and the requirements of the crops they would raise, it would be futile to deny. A thorough course of agricultural study at college

ONLY PARTIALLY MET THE CASE.

This would provide for coming generations, but what of the present? What was wanted was a remedy that would begin to tell on the working force now in the field. If farmers could be stirred up to read many excellent periodicals and works on agriculture with which the press at the present day teems, we might hope to see the dawn of a better day. With a liberal supply of agricultural periodicals and books, there is no good reason why every country home should not be in the winter time a miniature Agricultural College. This was the time when improved plans of husbandry might be laid for the coming spring. There are one or two means that might be tried to stir the spirit of improvement. A racy, popular lecture on the condition and wants of our agriculture, delivered in every school section, could not fail to do good. Another expedient for getting at the popular mind has been resorted to with much success in the United States. It was that of holding agricultural conventions, at which various topics are introduced by prepared papers or

addresses, and discussed by the audience. Our dairy associations are of this character, only they are devoted to a specialty. A beginning might be made by agricultural societies devoting a day to farm discussion instead of simply meeting to hear the annual report and elect officers. Short course agricultural colleges, on the same principle as the commercial colleges, was another expedient. It would be much better than nothing, notwithstanding the fact that not much beyond putting the mind on the right track could be done. The speaker then went on to state that in pursuance of the views enunciated in the foregoing communication it would be his present object to show the importance—the absolute necessity—of

AN EARNEST CRUSADE

in the direction of agricultural improvement. First, from the state of things, industrially and socially, not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world at the present time. Newspapers teem with accounts of skilled mechanics out of work; of destitution not only among poor people but among those known as the middle class. The condition of the old country was depicted by the speaker. He held it was not entirely the result of commercial depression. It existed before the present siege of hard times commenced. It arises partly from the natural increase of population leading to a disproportionate multiplication of consumers as compared with producers. That the prevailing destitution is not wholly caused by the stringency of the times is evident from the fact that it cropped out pretty plainly when times were better. There was a jostling and crowding of professional gentlemen to such an extent that even more than average ability failed in many cases to achieve success. Even superior ability notoriously goes a begging nowadays. Everywhere there are too many professional men, too many persons whose aim is to live by their wits. To come down to business walks of life, it is patent to all that there is an overproduction of salesmen, book-keepers and clerks. Much is heard of the balance of power in Europe as influencing diplomacy and dictating peace or war. There is a balance of power in society at large and a point at which production is insufficient to meet consumption. There are too many hungry mouths, and there is too little food to fill them. There are too many naked backs and not enough clothing to put on them. So on through the entire circle of human wants. What we call the necessities of life obtain ready sale. If a man has wheat, or fat cattle, or wool, or dairy products, there is no trouble in turning them into money and making them a means of supplying income. It comes to this, that agriculture is the only source of wealth, and that more producers are wanted. "The profit of the earth is for all; even the king is served by the fruit of the field." There are illimitable stretches of fertile land awaiting culture, and so long as this is the case there is a remedy at hand for destitution, wherever

found. Why is not the remedy taken hold of? Because human pride is mightier than human necessity. There is a prejudice against that occupation on which all men are dependent, and on which the whole fabric of society rests. It is looked upon as vulgar and ungentle to labor with the hands even in that calling to which not ordinary people merely, but royalty itself must look for daily bread. It is not rational to expect an effectual cure for the wide-spread evil under consideration unless we go down to its roots and eradicate that. As with fighting the Canada thistle, all chopping and hacking of the shoots and leaves only tends to increase the pest, while nothing but the eradication of the roots amounts to a cure. So with this pestiferous idea, which has spread itself

LIKE A NETWORK ALL OVER SOCIETY.

It must be beaten into that dull scholar, the public, that all honest labor is respectable, while it is the meanest of things to sponge for daily bread and play the hypocrite for the sake of maintaining a respectable appearance. If it be true that the state of things now prevalent all over the civilized world is largely due to a disturbed equilibrium of the industrial forces, as the result of which the consumers outnumber the producers, and that the stringency of the times is in reality an effort of the body politic to restore the balance of power in the social system, then it follows most conclusively that the only remedy is increase of production. Dire necessity will force non-producers to leave the towns and cities into which they have crowded. They must seek "fresh fields and pastures new" in the country. Since they cannot buy food and clothing, they must go to work and produce them. There is and can be no other solution of the difficulty. What is true of people who have been filling situations with small salaries is equally true of artisans and laborers. Manufacture is overdone, and there must be more production. All the world over, labor-saving devices have multiplied to such an extent that an outlet is demanded for labor, both skilled and unskilled. There is an over-abundance of it, for which new scope is required. That new scope is in reality the old scope, to which there must be a vigorous and willing return. "*Machinery will never starve the farmer.*" Men may be driven from mechanical pursuits, but they can always find room to work on the soil. On this continent where there is ample opportunity to obtain land, in small or large quantities, the unemployed need never be at a loss for something to do that will put food into their mouths and clothing on their backs. If they cannot earn money with which to buy the necessities of life, they can do what will serve their turn equally well, and that of society far better—go to work and produce what they want.

HEREIN LIES THE CURE FOR THE TROUBLES

that afflict the industrial classes. It is production that is wanted, the creation of more wealth, to meet the world's need. The farmer

is a sort of creator. Agriculture is the only source of wealth. There must be a broader basis made for the social superstructure. It is top-heavy, and needs buttressing with the implements of husbandry. Two acres of land will support in comfort a Dutch or Belgian family. John Chinaman is rich on a single acre or less. In France every family has its little homestead, and no business changes can effect the prosperity of the great mass of the working people. It is better to be a small landholder than a pinched mechanic, or half-idle laborer. In the suburbs of all our towns and cities there are great expanses of unoccupied land which the owners would be glad to let for the payment of taxes, or sell on long time. Why on earth cannot people who have nothing to do get hold of these waste places, and make productive gardens of them? Able-bodied men let the spade and hoe lie unused at their feet, and go about moping and starving. The fact is, nothing is so generous as the soil; nothing repays with such liberal profusion the labor you bestow upon it. You give Mother Earth of your scanty measure, and she flings back to you from her bountiful stores a thousand fold. The late Horace Greeley advised the young men to "Go West." The speaker didn't care whether you went west or east, north or south, or stay where you are, but if you are hard up and don't know what to do for a living,

GET A BIT OF LAND,

work it well, and you will not toil for nothing. If a little garden patch on the edge of your town or city is too scrimpt-up a domain for your ambition, push out into the country and "bite bigger." Begin with spade husbandry. By-and-bye you will be able to run a plough. He should like to see a generation of little farmers spring up out of the debris of these hard times. With generous manuring and high culture great crops may be harvested from very limited acres. And this, be it remembered, is literally "making money." It is going to the fountain-head, and tapping the springs of wealth at their source. This is not fictitious, but real and actual gain. There is one moral taught by all this, from which there is no getting away. It is, that those already located on farms and able to make a living off them had better stay where they are. With so many idle people in towns and cities—idle not from choice but from necessity—idle because they have absolutely nothing to do—is it not downright insanity for hale and hearty young fellows to abandon the farm? In the second place, he argued in favor of efforts to educate our people agriculturally, from the claims of farming as an occupation. Two

VERY OPPOSITE OPINIONS

are widely prevalent in regard to farming as an occupation: the one that it is eminently desirable, and the other that it is well-nigh detestable. The high estimate of farming just alluded to is formed extensively by people of education and culture, by professional men,

merchants, and those whose duties confine them to the town or city. Here and there you find a practical farmer who thinks thus highly of his calling, though it must be confessed that enthusiasm in regard to their vocation is rarer among farmers than among other classes of persons. Whatever may be the cause, it is, to say the least, unfortunate that farming should be in better repute among those not engaged in it than among those who are compelled, in too many cases, against their will, to follow it as a business. What are the grounds on which the favorable estimate of farming is based? Are they substantial or illusory? Let us investigate them somewhat. Its admirers regard and speak of agriculture as a healthful, independent and safe occupation; preferable to the in-door confinement, anxiety and uncertainty of commerce and the professions; bringing those who pursue it into every day contact with nature, and with those scenes of the external world which mankind by common consent are wont to delight in. Is not all this true? And can as much be said in so few words concerning any other human occupation? It will doubtless be urged in reply that all this is the bright side of the farmer's life, and that it is not without its drawbacks and difficulties. Granted: but every earthly condition that can be pictured has a dark background, while it will be hard to find another that has lines of equal brightness in the foreground. Admitting, for argument's sake, that

THE HIGH ESTIMATE OF AGRICULTURE

is correct, how is it that so many farmers do not have it? Firstly, because discontent with our own lot and envy of that of others is among the commonest besetments of humanity. Secondly, because farmers and their families know but little of the real circumstances of town and city people, and are especially ignorant of the toils, worries, privations and hardships connected with business and the professions. Thirdly, because the rural population has not been educated up to an appreciation of the beautiful in nature. This is often his misfortune more than it is his fault. His life has been one monotonous plod. He has been too much of an earth-worm and a drudge. What philosophers would call the æsthetic part of his nature is undeveloped. "Tis pity, but pity 'tis, 'tis true." There are not wanting signal exceptions to all this. Many farmers, and their number is constantly on the increase, appreciate their calling as highly as any who look wistfully at it from a distance, and would hardly change places with a prince on his throne. There are others who, in the absence of any gushing enthusiasm, see ample reason for contentment with their lot. But it is time to glance at the low estimate of farming as an occupation, to which reference was made at the outset of this lecture. On what grounds is that attempted to be justified? That it is a slavish life: that it is not genteel; that it does not pay; that its associations are low, coarse and unrefined.

Let us examine these characterizations a little in detail. No doubt farming is a laborious employment, but so are all others that are worth prosecuting. Many have no idea of any toil except that of the muscle. But brain work is far more fatiguing and exhausting. Toil is a common lot of humanity, and its happy lot, for the truest enjoyment is ever found in constant useful, profitable employment. None of earth's prizes are to be won by the avoidance of work. Labor, downright labor, is the price of success in every pursuit. And while the farmer's toil is wholesome, sleep-inducing, invigorating, improved appliances are constantly being invented to take the drudgery more and more out of it. This cannot be said of business or professional pursuits. No horse-power machinery can be had to supersede the hard thinking or the incessant worrying of merchants, lawyers, doctors, editors, and all those classes whose occupations demand the constant exercise of brain power. That

FARMING IS NOT GENTEEL IS CONTRADICTED

by incontrovertible facts. In Great Britain it is the most aristocratic of pursuits; princes, lords, first "commoners," and the cream of the gentry are farmers. But it is alleged that farming does not pay. Who affirm this? Poor farmers who do not understand their business, or push it with energy, men who would not succeed in making money elsewhere any better than they do on the farm; and covetous farmers, who are not satisfied with the "slow and sure" gains of honest, persevering industry, but are dazzled by deceitful visions of fortunes made by lucky speculation. Taking the average of those who follow farming, it is more steadily remunerative than any other calling. How seldom is a farmer's name found in a list of insolvents! In how many deplorable instances have we beheld farmers who were doing well, but ached to do better, sell their farms, embark in business, and in a very brief space become bankrupts? Slovenly, careless, unthrifty, brainless farming does not pay; but the same characteristics and habits that succeed elsewhere are even more certain to pay on the field of agriculture than on any other. Rural homes are too often lacking in beauty and attractiveness. Some farmers, it must be owned, have a contempt for these things, which they are fond of displaying whenever opportunity offers. Few of them have anything like a library. It is only here and there that a farmhouse has beautiful and attractive surroundings. Too many families in the country are willing to live in the kitchen, keeping the best portion of the dwelling shut up except on occasion of a wedding or a funeral. But their occupation is not responsible for this lack of intelligence, polished manners, and good taste. There are no manners and good taste. There is no class of our people who have

SO MANY RESOURCES WITHIN THEMSELVES
for making home pleasant and home life

delightful as farmers. In the third place the speaker argued for a more widespread agricultural education, because of the importance of science in farming. The speaker held that there was not much wonder that the untutored backwoodsman should have a prejudice against science in farming; but that representatives of the people in Parliament assembled should be afraid that our young men would get too much theory schooled into them, and be thereby unfitted to make good farmers, may surely be ranked as one of the wonders of the age. Almost the only tangible objection raised against the School of Agriculture by our representatives was that it gives too much theoretical instruction. It is high time this bubble were pricked and the wind let out of it, whether it be found sailing aloft along our concession lines or floating around the heads of legislators in parliamentary halls. Many years ago it was quite the fashion in certain quarters to decry theory in connection with agriculture, but we supposed that day was past for ever, until we were undeceived by the waking up of our legislative Rip Van Winkles, and their loud outcry against the danger that menaced the country from this source. Now, what is theory? Is it not a statement of the principles according to which any effect is produced; in other words, a recognition of those unchangeable laws by which the universe is governed?

THEORY IS AS NECESSARY TO THE FARMER

who grows a bushel of wheat as it is to the mechanic who builds the mill in which the wheat is ground. The great mistake is that of supposing theory and practice to be hostile to each other, while the truth is theory should guide practice, and practice conform itself to theory. Generally speaking the farmer is a mere manual laborer. He works according to a few simple traditional rules. Certain modes of culture have been found by experience to bring about certain results. But he cannot explain the why and the wherefore of them. He cannot show why it is and must be as experience has demonstrated. Hence he goes about his work mechanically rather than intelligently, and finds it more of a task than a pleasure. To know the reasons of things, to be versed in the principles of agriculture, would convert drudgery into an enthusiastic observation of Nature, and lend a charm to an otherwise tedious occupation. It is not perhaps to be wondered at that so few farmers are versed in the theory of their business when it is remembered that it is only very lately that agriculture could claim to have been reduced to a system. It was only in the early part of the present century that chemistry was first applied to farming, and there are patriarchs now living who have witnessed the birth of agricultural chemistry as they have the discovery of steam and the invention of railroads. The farmer who would be up with the times must be a book-farmer. He must farm by the book. It is quite true that reading alone will not make a man a good farmer. There

IS A PRACTICAL PART

which must be learnt on the farm itself. It requires an exercise of judgment only to be had by experience, to adapt principles to varying circumstances of soil and climates. The farmer's aim should be to raise the largest possible crops at the least possible cost, especially shunning that cost which comes from inflicting injury on the soil. What the soil contains is his stock-in-trade, and he must keep that up or his business will soon go to the dogs. In conclusion the lecturer plead for the use of all available means to diffuse agricultural information in view of the characteristics and wants of Canadian farming. While the general rules that govern agriculture are the same all the world over, every country has a husbandry peculiar to itself. Its character becomes moulded and fixed by the force of circumstances. There is a certain adaptation about it, and in the study of that adaptation the secret of success is to be found. The

MOST CONSPICUOUS AND STRIKING FEATURE

of Canadian farming is the newness of the country which forms its field of operation. In many localities the "oldest inhabitant" remembers when the first tree was felled and the light of day let into the primeval wilderness. Then the all-absorbing thought was to make a clearing. There was wholesale tree slaughter. Fields and farm steadings were laid bare and left unsheltered. The country was laid open to the sweep of fierce winds. A lessened rainfall, and our almost chronic summer droughts, had been caused by a too indiscriminate destruction of the woods and forests. The exposed condition of the country had rendered the growth of fall wheat uncertain and unprofitable in many districts. The early settlers found a soil of astonishing fertility. This they cropped and cropped again, with the most exhaustive products, neglecting to return to the land by timely manuring, the wealth abstracted by abundant harvests. Dire necessity had something to do with this. With their farms to pay for, their families to keep, their stock, tools, and implements to buy, it was not so surprising that they drew upon the virgin soil to the utmost extent possible. But ignorance, as well as necessity, prompted their course of procedure. A restoration of tree growths was now loudly called for. The highways needed to beavenued with trees, groves planted around farm-steadings; and the fields belted with rows of evergreens.

RESTORATION OF LOST FERTILITY

is another urgent want of Canadian agriculture. A system to which the late Baron Liebig severely but correctly gave the name of "spoliation" has been pursued to well nigh its uttermost limit. As a natural result of it, the impression is widely prevalent that farming does not pay! Alas, for "our bleeding country," if this be so. Agriculture must be the basis

of our national prosperity, if we are to have any. Unless we can make farming pay the country will drift into bankruptcy without help or hope. The old system of improvident, exhaustive tillage, that is ever drawing on the resources of the soil, without paying anything back will not pay. It is like drawing cheques incessantly on a bank account without making any cash deposits; the result, "no funds." Stock raising and cattle feeding must be gone into more extensively. "No stock, no manure; no manure, no crops." The opening which now presents for the shipment of our fat cattle and sheep to Britain, and their sale at paying prices there, is most opportune in view of our agricultural condition. There need be no fear of over-production, with such a market accessible. In some districts where a too exclusive course of grain growing was formerly pursued, the farmers have taken to root culture and stock raising with the best results. In others grass growing and dairying are working a welcome change for the better. What is needed is that the whole country should awake to the imperative necessity of recuperating the soil. Better farming is loudly demanded. If

THERE IS TO BE BETTER FARMING,

there must be better farmers. Those who till the soil must become educated, not in a general way alone, but in the specialties of their vocation. Farming is a business, and men require to be educated and qualified for it just as for every other business. Even if a farmer's early education has been but scant, there is abundant help for him in the teeming issues of the press. "Read and you will know" is an unfailing talisman. Let him study and master the principles of his noble calling; let him emulate the example of the most successful tillers of the soil; let him farm with brains as well as muscle, and he will achieve results of which he little dreams at present. He will make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, and take rank among the benefactors of his race. He will prove himself a true patriot, and be held in grateful remembrance, when thousands of blatant politicians are deservedly forgotten.

At the conclusion of the address, of which the above is a bare outline, it was moved by Prof. Brown, seconded by Prof. Fenton, "That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to the lecturer, Rev. W. F. Clarke, for the able and instructive lecture just delivered; and through him to the proprietors of the Montreal Witness for thus giving us the opportunity of enjoying a privilege rarely offered—listening to a lecture upon agricultural subjects from one of the ablest exponents of those subjects in Canada."

President Johnston expressed his hearty approval of the resolution before putting it to the meeting. It was carried amidst great applause.—*Quebec Mercury*.

THE DAILY AND WEEKLY WITNESS WILL CONTAIN THE WHOLE
SERIES OF MR. CLARKE'S LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE.

ALL PERSONS

who desire to keep well informed on AGRICULTURAL SUBJECTS, in their various departments, on subjects of VITAL INTEREST to the COUNTRY, of the NEWS at HOME AND ABROAD, and who wish to read that which will have a tendency to cultivate a desire for, and strengthen, principles of RELIGION AND TEMPERANCE, can find their object greatly aided in its attainment by reading the MONTREAL WITNESS. The history and career of this paper is well known, and its success has been considered one of the marvels of the age. Any who desire to work to secure its greater circulation can do so at a profit to themselves by obtaining subscriptions to it, or the other WITNESS publications. This is a work not only pleasant to those who engage in it, but which will obtain for them the thanks of those whom their influence causes to take any of these papers. This has been the UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCE of the workers for the WITNESS and its sister papers. Cash commissions are given for subscriptions and prizes, and the following offers are also made:—

New subscribers for a year to any of the WITNESS publications,—a list of which is given below,—will receive the paper to which they subscribe FREE to the end of this year, so that any persons now subscribing will get their papers from the time they subscribe to the first of January, 1880, for one price.

Any person sending us TWO new subscribers to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, at \$2 each, will get a third copy for himself or herself FREE.

Any person sending in ONE new subscriber to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY will get a copy of the WEEKLY WITNESS FREE for one year.

Any person sending us FOUR new subscribers to the WEEKLY WITNESS, at \$1.10 each, will get an extra copy for one year.

Any person sending us one new subscriber to the WEEKLY WITNESS will receive a copy of the NORTHERN MESSENGER FREE for one year.

A special offer is made to Sunday-schools. To any Sunday-school that does not now take the NORTHERN MESSENGER, we will send free to the end of this year a package containing a sufficient number of papers to supply one to each family.

All instructions necessary to begin this work will be sent on application to the publishers. The prize list may be found in any copy of the WEEKLY WITNESS.

EVERY LETTER ANSWERED.

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Montreal Weekly Witness, - - - -	1.10	"	26,300
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Northern Messenger, (Illus.), - - - -	30c.	"	46,400

THE DAILY AND WEEKLY WITNESS TO JANUARY 1st, 1880, FOR
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THE DAILY WITNESS AND WEEKLY WILL CONTAIN MR. CLARKE'S LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE.

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